

# Nevada 2005 State Recreational Trails Plan

**Nevada Division of State Parks  
Planning and Development Section**



# Acknowledgements

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Thanks are due to the many in government agencies, organizations and all the individual citizens whose contributions made the development of the Nevada 2005 State Recreational Trails Plan possible. The following major contributors are recognized:

## **CITIZENS OF NEVADA**

A special thanks to the 501 citizens across Nevada who responded to the mail survey titled Trail Activities in Nevada conducted by the Nevada Division of State Parks in 2003.

Thanks also goes out to the 113 people that responded to the mail survey titled Trail Issues in Nevada conducted in 2004 and to the many people that attended the public workshops to develop the recommended actions to address the identified issues.

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# Executive Summary

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*Nevada's 2005 State Recreational Trails Plan begins with an introduction to the document-chapter 1, and then presents the research results from the Trail Activities in Nevada study-chapter 2, the top thirteen (13) trail issues-chapter 3, the recommended actions to address the issues-chapter 4, and the Nevada Division of State Parks trail inventory and summary of Recreational Trails Program projects in Nevada-chapter 5. Also included are all issues identified in the Trails Issues in Nevada survey-Appendix A, potential funding sources for trails in Nevada-Appendix B, Recreational Trails Program project sponsor contact list-Appendix C, Historic trails in Nevada-Appendix D and the Recreational Trails Program evaluation criteria-Appendix E.*

## **Plan Goal:**

The goal of the Nevada 2005 State Recreational Trails Plan is to increase and improve the quality of recreational trail activity opportunities in Nevada.

## **Plan Objectives:**

OBJECTIVE 1: Guide the allocation of Recreational Trails Program funds and other resources for appropriate trail uses and needs.

OBJECTIVE 3: Apply strategic planning principles in the conduct of research, with emphasis on support for the Nevada Division of State Parks.

OBJECTIVE 2: Provide recommended actions to address the top priority trail activity issues in Nevada.

OBJECTIVE 4: Encourage public and private cooperation and input in addressing the trail activity issues facing Nevada.



***The Trail Activities in Nevada survey conducted by Nevada Division of State Parks found that:***

- 61.3 % of Nevada residents participated in a recreational trail activity in the twelve (12) months preceding the questionnaire
- Walking is the most popular trail activity, with 55% of Nevadans participating in the past twelve (12) months, and 41.5% expecting to participate in the future
- Trail users spend an average of 20.5 days on the trails per year
- The average party size for trail users is 4.2 people per outing
- Trail users travel an average of 10.7 miles per day
  - Non-motorized trail users travel an average of 6.68 miles per day
  - Motorized trail users travel an average of 30.02 miles per day
- There are 425,435 OHVs, ATVs, snowmobiles and dirt bikes in Nevada
- The number one limiting factor for participation in trail activities is lack of time
- 6.9% of respondents belong to a trail or riding club, or trail related organization
- The main source of information about trails in Nevada is word of mouth

***The Nevada Division of State Parks inventory found that:***

- One hundred thirty-nine (139) trails are identified in twenty (20) state parks
- The total length of trails is over 271 miles
- One hundred thirty-eight trails projects have received grant funds from the Recreational Trails Program
- The total grant amount from 1993 to 2004 was \$4,061,184
- The total project cost from 1993 to 2004 was \$7,500,480
- 58 different groups, organizations and agencies have received funding

***The top trail issues in Nevada and the recommended actions to address each issue are:***

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Loss of public access to trails	1a. Identify access points, plan for access and acquire easements for trails 1b. Coordinate trail access needs with stakeholders
Lack of funding for trails	2a. Share resources for trails planning 2b. Identify existing and potential new resources to support trails
Closure of trails and roads	3a. Preserve existing trails 3b. Promote mitigation before closure
Not enough trails	4a. Increase the quantity and quality of trails in Nevada for multiple trail uses 4b. Inform the public about existing trails 4c. Increase funding devoted to expanding trail opportunities
Not enough support facilities near trails	5a. Enhance and expand support facilities
Erosion and deterioration of trails	6a. Use sustainable design techniques for new trail construction 6b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets
Not enough good information material about Nevada trails	7a. Provide current trail information and detailed maps
Lack of trail etiquette and ethics	8a. Expand trail etiquette and environmental ethic resources 8b. Share use and cooperate on trails
Inadequate trail maintenance	9a. Prioritize reconstruction over new development 9b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets 9c. Promote and support volunteer trail and trailhead maintenance
Too much litter and trash along trails	10a. Reduce litter and trash on trails and trailheads 10b. Enforce/follow rules and regulations
Lack of directional signs along trails and at trailheads	11a. Enhance and expand support facilities
Lack of trails close to home	12a. Establish trail opportunities close to home 12b. Promote interagency coordination to address regional needs
Too many different types of users on trails	13a. Address user conflicts and safety issues 13b. Share use and cooperate on trails





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# List of Acronyms

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ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
DCNR	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GID	General Improvement District
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NCA	Natural Conservation Area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NDSP	Nevada Division of State Parks
NHS	National Highway System
NPS	National Park Service
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
TRT	Tahoe Rim Trail
USC	United States Code
USFS	United States Forest Service
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator



